

TOWN OF TRUMBULL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING
Long Hill Room
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611
August 18, 2011 7:45 PM

1. Approval of June, 2011 Minutes
2. Status Update – Tax Abatement Program
3. Charter Revision Commission
4. Status Update – Replacement of Economic Development Director
5. Other Business

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order. The meeting of the Town of Trumbull Economic Development Commission was called to order at 7:45 PM by Chairman Abraham.

In Attendance: The following commissioners were in attendance:

Jim Abraham; Jack Berg; Patty Connelly; Tom Ginis; Beryl Kaufman; Karl Mizak;
Dave Rutigliano; Scott Wich

Absent: Ralph Sather

1. A motion to accept the minutes of the June 18, 2011 Meeting was made by Commissioner Connelly and seconded by Commissioner Berg. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2. Chairman Abraham gave an update on the status of the tax abatement process. He stated that the process has been delayed somewhat due to the involvement of the Town Council with the Charter revision process. Since that is complete, he has been in touch with Town Council Chairman Massaro to move forward. It appears that one more meeting with input from the town attorney should be sufficient to send the recommendation to the Town Council.
3. An update was given by the Chairman on the Charter revision process and our Commission's request to eliminate the allowing of P&Z members to be members of the Commission. According to the printed revisions, the Charter

Commission left that existing provision in the plan – no rational given even though Town Council Chairman thought that there was a potential conflict as did First Selectman Herbst.

4. First Selectman Herbst delayed the replacement process for the Director Of Economic Development position due to other pressing personnel issues at Town hall, but now wished to proceed. At a meeting earlier in the week, he told Chairman Abraham that he wished to make it a full time town position and not a contract, thus encouraging more applicants. Chairman Abraham felt that it was a strong alternative and invited the First Selectman to our meeting on August 18. The Chairman reminded the First Selectman that the Commission felt that the selection process was not appropriate and could not support it and Chairman Abraham would not serve in that process. But he also said that it was the First Selectman's decision and that the Commission would certainly work with whomever the first Selectman hired.

The First Selectman arrived to explain his rationale for making it full time. He indicated that he had supported the EDC recommendation to make it full time in this year's budget, but due to the lack of Board of Finance passage, the town council derailed that effort. Much discussion ensued about the pros and cons of full time versus Contract with the commission passing the following motion made By Commissioner Berg and seconded by Commissioner Kaufman: the Economic Commission unanimously approves the hiring of a full time Director of Economic Development as a town employee similar to the Director of Finance position. This would be an appointed position to serve during the time of the appointing First Selectman. The commission encouraged the First Selectman to use a variety of search efforts to gain maximum exposure for the position and to survey to ensure that the present salary - which would be the top of the range, is still appropriate. Commissioner Berg volunteered to assist.

5. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00Pm

Respectfully submitted By;

James Abraham
Chairman, Economic Development Commission
August 19, 2011